

WEEKLY MEMO

Date: October 19, 2012

To: Mayor Lynn Stauss, Council President Craig Buckalew, Vice President Wayne Gregoire, Council Members Marc Demers, Ron Vonasek, Henry Tweten, Greg Leigh, and Mike Pokrzywinski.

From: Scott Huizenga

RE: Weekly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 23, 2012 – 5:00 pm – Work Session – Training Room

October 29, 2012 – 2:00 pm – LGA Meeting – Training Room

November 6, 2012 – Election Day

November 8, 2012 – 5:00 PM - Special Meeting - Training Room

November 13, 2012 – 5:00 PM – Work Session – Training Room

November 20, 2012 – 4:00 PM – Pool Feasibility Study Meeting – Training Room

November 20, 2012 – 5:00 PM - Regular Meeting - Council Chambers

WEEKLY UPDATE:

General Obligation Bond

The Finance Director and I held a bond rating call with Moody's Investors Services on Tuesday. A bond sale will be held on Tuesday. Funds will be used to finance equipment purchases, special assessment projects, and one bond refinancing. The City Council will consider a resolution to award the sale at Tuesday evening's special meeting.

Upcoming Dates

East Grand Forks will host St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and other local officials in a Thank LGA roundtable on Monday, October 29. Northland College will hold its annual State of the College Luncheon on Tuesday, October 30. The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities fall conference is in Alexandria on November 14-16.

The October 23 work session is the last scheduled Council meeting before *Thursday*, November 8, at which the City Council will canvass the results of the 2012 General Election.

Labor Negotiations

The City held its first negotiation on session on Thursday with Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS). The parties discussed general proposals and terms. No agreements were reached. We are scheduled to meet again in November. We expect to commence negotiations with other bargaining units soon. The City has a total of five collective bargaining agreements. They all expire at the end of 2012.

Budget Work Sessions

I have attached revised budget work session schedule to the memo. Budget work sessions will start on the day after Veterans Day and run 2-3 times per week through the end of November. Some of the meetings will run concurrently with scheduled Council work sessions. The final proposed budget public hearing is scheduled for December 4 at 7:00 pm.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Public Works, Jason Stordahl

SANITATION

Reminder: For those of you that have signed up for recycle bank, please continue to report. And for those that have not signed up we encourage you to do so!

FLOATING DOCK

Public Works will be removing the floating dock (on the Red River) Friday.

STREETS

We have been busy running two sweepers to clean streets of leaves. Storm Water along with waste water have been cleaning leaf-plugged catch basins as well.

Our new road grader has arrived just in time for snow fall. The staff was trained in safety and operation of the new grader last week by personnel from Volvo.

Friendly Reminder: Winter is approaching. Please remember to drive carefully, and give our street cleaning equipment plenty of room.

WASTEWATER

Update on sanitary lift one odor: Wastewater collected many H₂S (in solution) samples throughout the week. The data has been forwarded on to Minnesota Rural Water, and a Chemist to analyze. They are going to get back to us after reviewing the data, and then will make a recommendation on where and how many lift stations to treat.

Police Department, Chief Mike Hedlund

Traffic Safety – The Fall harvest season and recent rains have left many roadways in poor condition. Mud and other debris are creating hazards in many areas. Help the EGFPD keep this Fall a safe one - slow down and watch for hazards in and near the roadway.

Watch out for deer – As we move into Fall the deer become much more active. Each year the EGFPD covers several car/deer collisions within the city limits. Watch your surroundings as you drive – especially in areas near the greenway.

Prescription Medicines – The illegal use and sale of prescription medicines is currently the number one drug problem in our region. Help to keep this problem to a minimum by keeping your prescriptions locked up.

Parks and Recreation, Dave Aker

The Red River State Recreation Area is officially closed for the year at the end of the week; we are staying open this weekend because the reservations on the State Reservation list have us listed as being open this weekend. The water and electricity have been shut off and only the rustic bathrooms are available. We have two days of blowing out the lines and taking down all the signs, then another day or so to haul the picnic tables out of the campground.

Hockey and figure skating began this week with hockey clinics for players that are in mites, peanuts, squirts, pee wees and bantams, along with the 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U. The synchro teams also started this week that include the Stars, Twinklers and Metallites. The VFW Arena opened on Monday and the Civic Center started the plant on Thursday and will be open October 28. The Blue Line Arena is suppose to open by November 10.

We have staff busy in the arenas; the Civic Center has a complete upgrade in painting the bleachers, hallways, and locker rooms. The VFW Arena has new tile in the locker rooms and by the players' boxes. The new figure skating locker room is finished and a BIG thank you to Jeannie and Dave Fenton for all their time and work.

AGENDA ITEMS:

Special Council Meeting

- The City Council will first recognize Tom Spoor for his service to the City upon his pending retirement on October 31.
- The City Council also will meet in special session to consider accepting and awarding bids for the sale of General Obligations bonds. The Council will then adjourn and convene the scheduled work session.

Work Session

- The City Engineer will discuss the proposed certified special assessment roll for 15th Street NE.
- The EDHA Director will discuss quotations to complete a portion of paving in the Waters Edge 1st Addition. The City recently sold an additional lot Waters Edge for a purchase price that included all special assessment costs. The paving, however, was not completed for this lot. Therefore, the City must finish the paving in order to finalize the purchase.
- Representatives from the Blue Line Club will update the City Council on its progress in procuring advertising for the City's Ice Resurfacers (Zambonis). The City Council previously directed the Blue Line Club to seek advertising on the condition that the Blue Line Club report to the City Council who the advertisers will be and how the revenue will be appropriated.
- The City Attorney will present a proposed retainer for legal services. The current agreement expires at the end of 2012.
- The City Attorney will also present a proposed snow removal agreement for Pinehurst Court. Several weeks ago, residents from the neighborhood approached the City Council requesting snow removal in the easement between Pinehurst Court properties. Currently, the easement (alley) is not a public right of way. The proposed agreement allows the City to remove snow from the easement while holding the City harmless from potential damages that could result from snow removal on public land. This allows the City to remove snow for this winter while the

property paperwork can be obtained from individual owners to permanently dedicate the public right of way later.

- Council Members Pokrzywinski and Gregoire have requested that the topic “Waste Water Options” for Tuesday’s work session agenda.
- Council Member DeMers will provide a Planning Commission update.

2013 Budget Work Session Schedule
5:00 p.m., Training Room unless otherwise noted

Tuesday, November 13

Police

Wednesday, November 14 (at Campbell Library)

Library

Fire

Monday, November 19

Parks and Recreation

Tuesday, November 20

Pool Study

Monday, November 26

Public Works

Tuesday, November 27

Water and Light

Wednesday, November 28

Capital Improvements Program

Administration and Finance

Planning and Transit

EDHA

Tuesday, December 4 (Council Chamber, 7:00pm)

Public Hearing

Consider Final Proposed Budget